As an RIT alumnus/a, you have immediate access to two valuable networking resources. The Professional Network is a database of alumni and employer volunteers ready to provide guidance and support for your career. Available through the Career Services Office Job Zone online job listing system (www.rit.edu/co-op/careers), advisors in the Professional Network are available for informational and networking interviews. Connect with them to gain information on their career paths, resource suggestions, and potential contacts you can use in your job search efforts.

Through the Alumni Online Community, you also have access to the Tiger Locator, an online database of RIT alumni, many of whom have volunteered to share their information with other alumni for networking purposes. Find this database on the Alumni Relations website – www.rit.edu/alumni/onlinecommunity/, and use the search criteria to locate alumni in your field, company of interest, geographic location, or from your major. Then reach out with a request to connect and begin networking!

**Bonus:** LinkedIn, the ultimate networking tool. Search for RIT alumni in your targeted companies, or fields of interest, in the LinkedIn groups you join, and through the Official RIT Alumni LinkedIn groups – the general group and individual college groups.

It’s true that 75% of all jobs are found through networking, and what better people to begin building your network with than your fellow RIT alumni!

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**DC Online Alumni Career Expo**

RIT is participating in another online career fair just for alumni. Brazen Careerist will hold the fair on Thursday, April 19, 2012, from 11am-3pm ET. By participating, you’ll gain direct access to dozens of Washington DC’s top employers (30-40 are expected), and get the opportunity to speak with recruiters and hiring managers that make hiring decisions.

Participating candidates save time by eliminating the “internet resume black hole.” In addition, you’ll gain access to great employers and recruiters looking for candidates outside of their routine job-search network.

You’ll have direct conversations (through online chat) with recruiters, giving YOU the power to decide which opportunity is the best fit for your next career move.

Register for the Expo online at www.alumnicareerexpo.com.
Mentoring is a relationship between two people for the purpose of professional development. The mentor is an experienced professional who shares their experiences, knowledge and advice with the mentee, and who often becomes a role model, helping the mentee enter and advance in their own career.

Being a mentor can be rewarding, allowing you to improve your leadership and communication skills, learn new perspectives from your mentee, and gain a strong sense of personal satisfaction. You can become a mentor for RIT students and other alumni through our Professional Network, found on our Job Zone system. If you’re interested, simply complete the profile here - [https://clipboard.rit.edu/take.cfm?sid=10F3DBCE](https://clipboard.rit.edu/take.cfm?sid=10F3DBCE) - we’ll input your information and you’ll be an active advisor.

Everyone benefits from having a mentor, so consider asking a trusted professional from your field to work with you in a mentoring relationship. Some suggestions where you can find a mentor include the Professional Network, MentorNet, or through a Professional Association directory. A LinkedIn contact in your field may also be able to provide mentoring.

In any mentoring relationship, be sure to establish the goals and set the parameters and expectations for working together. Commit to the relationship, respect your partner, and be present during your time together. Mentoring can be a meaningful way to grow and advance in your career, so take advantage of it!

### Online Self-Assessment Tools

Self-assessment is a necessary first step in career planning. Determining where you want to put your skills to work, and where best your strengths and qualifications will fit will help you develop your brand and how you’ll sell yourself to potential employers. You can work with organizations who provide advanced testing such as the Myers-Briggs inventory (Career Development Services in Rochester is an example).

However, there are online resources that can get you started in the assessment process, and give you a good idea of your interests, skills, values, and strengths, and help guide you to places where you might best excel.

- The Keirsey Temperament Sorter is a 70 question assessment tool similar to the Myers-Briggs inventory.
- Career Directions Inventory at LiveCareer.com -- identifies your career interests (highest and lowest) and then tells you what jobs match your results in your highest scored categories.
- MAPP (Motivational Appraisal of Personal Potential) Assessment. Fill in a questionnaire that has 71 triads of three statements.
- JOBehaviors -- provides dozens of job-specific assessments for jobs in a variety of high-demand industries with the goal of helping people find the right job.
- JobDiagnosis -- a career assessment where job-seekers take a short test to assess your interests, skills, abilities, and competencies.
Self-Confidence in Your Job Search

Self-confidence, or a lack of it, has a definite impact on your job search; in fact, the longer you’re unemployed, the more apt you are to have diminished confidence in yourself and your abilities. This can cause you to be less successful at all-important job search activities including networking, articulating your value in resumes, cover letters and interviews, and even negotiating the terms of a job offer. In addition, potential employers can spot a lack of confidence, and be hesitant to place their confidence in someone who doesn’t possess it in themselves.

Here are some tips to build and maintain self-confidence while you’re in a job search.

- **Review your successes and strengths.** Take stock of what you have to offer in terms of skills and abilities, and remind yourself of your past accomplishments. Keep a record of what you’ve done well, when people have praised your work, what you feel especially proud of. Write these down and refer to them when you’re feeling down about your job search; past achievements will help conquer current self-doubt.

- **Get/use a support network.** Don’t close yourself in; reach out to people, both personally (family, friends) and professionally (networking events, informational meetings, contact with former co-workers, local job clubs). Be with people who will support you and your efforts, and build you up, not bring you down.

- **Stay healthy.** Exercise, maintain a good diet, practice meditation, limit your moping time by focusing on the positives in your life – a gratitude journal is a great way to keep a positive attitude. Hobbies will help distract your mind from constantly obsessing on your search.

- **Volunteer.** Helping others has a positive impact on self-esteem, allowing you to demonstrate your skills, connect with others, and reinforce your value. Consider taking a leadership role in an organization for which you volunteer.

- **Remember there are a lot of variables in a job search.** Candidates are chosen for a variety of reasons, not always because they’re the most qualified. Make an effort not to compare yourself with others, but affirm your uniqueness.

Rejection Letters: What to Do Now?

It’s normal to take rejection letters personally, and to feel that any future with this company is nonexistent. Try instead to keep your perspective and turn momentary rejection into possible future opportunities. You may not have been the best candidate for this particular position, but if you felt you were a good match for the company, touch base with your contacts and let them know you’d like to be considered for future positions that more closely align with your qualifications. Keep a positive attitude and focus on maintaining contact.

A caveat; if you’ve gotten repeated rejection letters, consider how you’re presenting yourself; your Career Services advisor can help you evaluate your marketing tools and interviewing skills.

Unemployed doesn’t equal unworthy!

A rejection letter doesn’t mean you’re a bad candidate
Pinterest: Tool for Your Job Search or Media Hype?

You may have heard about one of the latest online social media sites – Pinterest. This is an online bulletin board that lets you “pin” (post) pictures in different subject areas (boards). As with many of these sites, some people are now advocating using Pinterest as a tool for your job search, and have come up with ways to do so, including:

1) **Put your resume on Pinterest as a portfolio.** You can create boards that highlight your work experience, accomplishments, awards, academic classes and projects/labs, and other creative representations of yourself. As long as you have pictures that convey the image you’re trying to project, this may be a unique way to attract potential employers.

2) **Find companies that you want to work for.** Companies are beginning to use Pinterest for their sales and marketing. Their pin boards can help you get an idea of the company’s culture, priorities and strategies, so you can target yourself to their image and needs, again helping you to stand out among the competition.

3) **Follow Career Experts.** Some online career advice websites, including Brazen Careerist, Career Bliss, The 405 Club, and FlexJobs, are offering career information and advice through Pinterest.

The consensus appears to be that with the amount of traffic currently on Pinterest – 11 million+ users – it’s worth considering as another outlet for gaining exposure to prospective employers, and to get your personal brand in front of those who are hiring. Using Pinterest will also demonstrate your commitment to staying current and technologically savvy.

As with any other social media site, you don’t want to put all your hopes on Pinterest as the answer to your job search, but as part of a comprehensive job search strategy, it may be a resource that can take you one step further to your dream job.

Whatever you decide to do, remember that, as with all other social media sites, once you add your information, it’s out there for all to see, including prospective employers. So carefully strategize and target your information, if you plan to use Pinterest as part of your job search.